

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 087306

R 020127Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 7027

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4677

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

DAR ES SALAAM FOR ASST, SECT, EASUM

E.O. 1652: GDS

TAGZ: PFOR, UN, SF,

SUBJ: REACTIONS AT UN TO US VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION

1. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS ESPECALLY AMONG AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE UN, TO US EXERCISE OF VETO, HAVE BEEN WITHOUT DISCERNIBLE PATTERNS AND WITHOUT PARTICULARLY STRONG CRITICISM. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, TO OUR SURPRISE IN SOME CASES, HAVE CONGRATULATED US ON STATEMENT MADE BY AMB. SCALI, WHILE DISAGREEING WITH THE WAY WE VOTED. VERY FEW HAVE LAMBASTED US. RUNDOWN OF CERTAIN REACTIONS BY COUNTRY MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST:

CAMEROON- MISOFF NDIMBIE TOLD US THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR VOTE, THAT WE HAD TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, AND THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS THERE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO SOUTH AFRICA. (WE TRIED TO STRAIGHTEN HIM OUT.)

ALGERIAN (OUCIF-THERE COLONIAL ISSUES MAN), CHAD (

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ALLINGUE PERMREP, AND ETHIOPIA (ACTING PERMREP TADESSE) WERE

CORDIAL AS ALWAYS, AND MADE NO COMMENT CONCERNING THE VOTE.
NIGERIA - COUNSELLOR YERO SAID SIMPLY, "WE HAVE NOTED YOUR
VETO".

MALI - PERMREP TRAORE SAID, " WE KNOW IT WAS A DIFFICULT VOTE,"
BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION.

VISITING MEMBER OF MALIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE, FILIFING
SISSOKO, MADE NO COMMENT .

UPPER VOLTA -PERMREP YAGUIBEU CRITICIZED US FOR VETO AND HIS
COMMITTEE THREE MAN DESCRIBED IT AS "OVERKILL".

LESOTHO - PERM REP MOLAPO MADE NO COMMENT.

SOMALIA MISOFF BIHI CHARACTERIZED UK AND FRENCH VETOS AS
INTENDED TO HELP US SAVE FACE.

ZAIRE - PERMREP MUTALE MADE NO REFERENCE TO VETO.

MALAWI - PERMREP MBAYA MADE NO COMMENT ON VETO, BUT WAS
ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHAT FOLLOW UP STEPS US, UK AND
FRANCE INTEND TO MAKE WITH SAG.

RWANDA - DECM BARARWEREKANA HAD NO COMMENT, PRESSING ON
IN HIS CONVERSATION FOR US FAVORS FOR THE
RWANDAN MISSION.

MAURITANIA -PERM REP EL HASSEN CONGRATULATED AMB. SCALI
ON HIS SPEECH.

PAC - PAC REP SIBEKO, WHO HAD BEEN VIOLENT IN HIS CRITICISM
DURING DEBATE, ALSO CONGRATULATED AMB. SCALI ON HIS
SPEECH.

2. REACTIONS OF SOME EUROPEAN AND OTHER NON-AFRICAN MEMBERS
ALSO ARE INTERESTING. THE FRENCH ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE
RESULTS OF THEIR VETO. SPECIFICALLY, THEY FEAR THAT AFRICANS
MAY SWING FULL SUPPORT BEHIND AUSTRALIAN RES IN FIRST COMMITTEE,
CRITICIZING PACIFIC TESTING. AUSTRIAN REP LENNKH POINTED OUT
THAT THE VOTE SHOWED THAT AUSTRIA DOES NOT ALWAYS SIMPLY VOTE WITH
MAJORITY: RATHER IT "SOMETIMES VOTES ON PRINCIPLE". AT HIS
MID-DAY BRIEFING OCT 31, UK SPOKESMAN SAID VETOED RES "DOES
NOT RESOLVE ANYTHING". CENTRAL QUESTION WAS NOT
EXPULSION BUT POLICIES CONCERNING NAMIBIA, SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND
APARTHEID. ENTIRE UN HAS OBLIGATION TO INFLUENCE CHANGE
IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE ADDED THAT
UK, FRANCE, AND US HAD CONSULTED ON VETO, BUT THAT THERE WAS
NO "VOTING PACT". INDIAN MISOFF AHMAD WAS DISAPPOINTED, AND
SAID VETO COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD BOTH SIDES WORKED
HARDER. HE BELIEVES SOME AFRICANS FEEL US SHOULD
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HAVE EXERTED MORE PRESSURE ON UK AND FRANCE TO COME AROUND AND
SUPPORT AFRICAN EFFORTS FOR COMPROMISE.

3. COMMENT: IN SUM, IT DOES NOT LOOK AS THOUGH THE SKY
FELL IN. MOST AFRICANS ARE NOW LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO
TURN TO EFFECT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA.
ALMOST ALL ASK FOR US, UK AND FRENCH PRESSURE ON SAG. MANY
UNDERSTAND OUR VETO EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY. AT

THIS JUNCTURE, VOTE LOSS FOR US ON OTHER ISSUES APPEARS
ONLY MARGINAL, WERE INDIVIDUAL VOTERS TO BE LEFT TO THEIR OWN
DESIGNS. BUT, GIVEN STRONG FLOOR LEADERSHIP WITHIN AFRICAN
GROUP AND NON-ALIGNED, US VETO MAY BE EXPLOITED BY OTHERS TO BRING
ALONG GROUP VOTING ANTITHETICAL TO OUR INTERESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN04677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740314-0715
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741175/aaaacmeq.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS AT UN TO US VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION
TAGS: PFOR, SF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005